

SENATE BILL 723

By Woodson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36,
Chapter 3, Part 6, relative to orders of protection
and domestic abuse.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-601, is amended by deleting
from subdivision (11) the language:

“Victim” means any person who falls within the following categories:

and substituting instead the following language:

“Domestic abuse victim” means any person who falls within the following
categories:

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-602, is amended by deleting
subsection (a) and substituting instead the following:

(a) Any domestic abuse victim, stalking victim or sexual assault victim who has
been subjected to, threatened with, or placed in fear of, domestic abuse, stalking, or
sexual assault, may seek a relief under this part by filing a sworn petition alleging such
domestic abuse, stalking, or sexual assault by the respondent.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-617, is amended by deleting the
first sentence of subsection (a) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the petitioner shall not
be required to pay any filing fees, litigation taxes or any other costs associated with the
filing, issuance, service, appeal or enforcement of an order of protection authorized by
this part upon the filing of the petition.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-605, is amended by deleting
subsection (d) and substituting instead the following:

(d) Within the time the order of protection is in effect, any court of competent jurisdiction may modify the order of protection, either upon the court's own motion or upon motion of the petitioner. If the respondent is found to be in violation of the order, the court may extend the order of protection up to five (5) years. If the respondent is found to be in a second or subsequent violation of the order, the court may extend the order of protection up to ten (10) years. No new petition is required to be filed in order for a court to modify an order or extend an order pursuant to this subsectioned.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.